

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA  
ASHEVILLE DIVISION  
CIVIL ACTION NO. 1:20-CV-00145-KDB**

**THOMAS RIDDLE,**

**Plaintiff,**

**v.**

**ANDREW M. SAUL, Commissioner of  
Social Security,**

**Defendant.**

**ORDER**

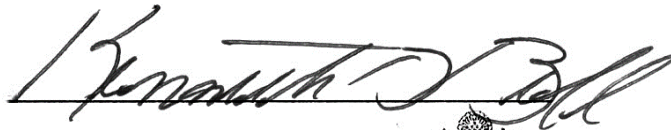
**THIS MATTER IS BEFORE THE COURT** on the Plaintiff's Consent Motion for Fees Pursuant to the Equal Access to Justice Act 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d)(1)(A) filed on June 1, 2021. (Doc. No. 20). Having reviewed the motion, supporting materials, memorandum in support, and the case file the Court determines that Plaintiff should be awarded an attorney's fee under the Equal Access to Justice Act ("EAJA"), 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d), in the amount of \$7,500.00. The parties have conferred and agreed to this amount in attorney's fees.

**IT IS ORDERED** that the Plaintiff's Motion for Fees Under the Equal Access to Justice Act 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d)(1)(A) filed is **GRANTED**, to the extent that the Court will award attorney fees in the amount of \$7,500.00, and that pursuant to *Comm'r of Soc. Sec. v. Ratliff*, 560 U.S. 586, 130 S. Ct. 2521 (2010), the fee award will first be subject to offset of any debt Plaintiff may owe to the United States. The Commissioner will determine whether Plaintiff owes a debt to the United States. If so, the debt will be satisfied first, and if any funds remain, they will be made payable to Plaintiff and mailed to Plaintiff's counsel. If the United States Department of the Treasury reports to the Commissioner that the Plaintiff does not owe a federal debt, the government will exercise

its discretion and honor an assignment of EAJA fees and pay the awarded fees directly to Plaintiff's counsel. No additional petition pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d) shall be filed.

**SO ORDERED.**

Signed: June 1, 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth D. Bell", written over a horizontal line.

Kenneth D. Bell  
United States District Judge

